Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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46 S

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SS-20

NSC-07 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

PRS-01 /062 W

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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
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CONFIDENTIAL KHARTOUM 1577

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS PINS, CASC, ET SUBJ: TENNECO FOUR

REF: KHARTOUM 1560

- 1. KHALIFA CALLED EMBOFF ON 30 JUNE AND STATED ZEIN HAD JUST TOLD HIM ON TELEPHONE THAT ELF VERY UPSET AT VOA BROADCAST CONCERNING RECENT TENNECO PRESS RELEASE WHICH PERPORTEDLY STATED THAT ETHIOPIAN REBELS OR MUTINEERS RELEASED TWO CAPTIVES, A NURSE AND A PILOT, AND TENNECO IS NOW READY TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS.
- 2. EMBOFF TOLD KHALIFA THAT HE CAN'T BELIEVE TENNECO WOULD REFER TO ELF AS MUTINEERS OR REBELS SINCE THEY AWARE ELF SENSITIVITY THIS ISSUE. PARTICULARLY SINCE TENNECO HAD PREVIOUSLY COMPLIED WITH INITIAL DEMAND OF CAPTORS TO BROADCAST STATEMENT THAT IT WAS THE ELF THAT HAS CAPTIVES AND NOT BANDITS OR NORTHERN ETHIOPIAN REBELS.
- 3. PLEASE ADVISE IF INDEED SUCH A BROADCAST WAS MADE BY VOA AND ADVISE CONTENT OF TENNECO PRESS RELEASE. IF EITHER REFERRED TO ELF AS ETHIOPIAN REBELS OR MUTINEERS SUGGEST SOONEST POSSIBLE RETRACTION AND CORRECTION TERMINOLOGY TO PREVENT CONFIDENTIAL

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SERIOUS DAMAGING EFFORTS RELEASE REMAINING FOUR CAPTIVES

ESPECIALLY AT TIME WHEN NEGOTIATIONS APPEARED FINALLY TO BE ON THE TRACK.

4. DRAW ATTENTION TO WEDERFORTS OBSERVATIONS PARAGRAPH 5 REFTEL THAT POLITICAL RECOGNITION IS ESSENTIAL FACTOR IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR RELEASE OF CAPTIVES. THEREFORE SUGGEST IF THERE IS ANY AMBIGUITY IN TENNECO PRESS RELEASE OR VOA BROADCAST ON PROPER IDENTIFICATION CAPTORS, THAT MORE PRECISE PRESS RELEASE AND BROADCAST BE MADE SINCE IT IS EVIDENT ELF IS INTERPRETING BROADCAST AS OFFENSIVE AFTER IT COMPLIED WITH GESTURE OF GOOD FAITH.

5. PLEASE ADVISE. SANDERSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, NEGOTIATIONS, PRISONERS RELEASE, RADIO BROADCASTING

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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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